(e) what is the assistance given by Government to the agricultural labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. S ATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The minimum wages for the agricultural workers are fixed/revised under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Act, the Central as well the State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for the workers. The enforcement of the provisions of the Act is secured at two levels *i.e.* State level and Central level.

(c) and (d) The proposal to enact a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Government have undertaken several schemes to provide asisstance to people in rural areas including agricultural labour in the country. These are —Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) which has been rechristened as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) w.ei. 1.4.1999, Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth For Self-employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Programmes for the Special Component Plan for SC and Tribal Suo Plan etc. A new programme known as "Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana" has been launched from April, 1999 by amalgamating some of the schemes like IRDP, TRYSEM AND DWCRA. The new programme covers all aspects of self- employment such as organisation of the poor into self-help group, training credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

Special action plan for development in flood prone areas

*428. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMIMAHANTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state!

(a) whether Government are aware that no positive impact of various programme for plan development could be made in flood prone areas through Centrally Sponsored Schemes because all kind of investments made during last 50 years became a recurring wastage in such areas;

(b) if so, the causes of failure of the planners to evolve a suitable substitute plan for those areas to prevent this national wastage;

(c) whether Government will take up special programme for those areas in substitution of normal plan processes;

(d) if so, the approach and action plan contemplated; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OFMINISTRY OFFERSDNNEL, PUBUCGRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Planning Commission is not aware of any specific study carried out to indicate the impact of various pr~~mm~~ogrammes for planned development in flood prone areas through Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) whcih would show that all kinds of investments made during last SO years became a recurring wastage in such areas. However, because of floods smooth implementa- tion of various programmes and services is affected in certain situations and areas.

(c) to (e) Flood management is a State subject. The responsibility for planning, investigation, funding and implementation of flood management works/projects primarily rests with the concerned State Governments. As per Modified Gadgil-Mukherjee formula, the Centre provides normal Central assistance to States in the form of block loans and grants and acts as an advisory and coordinating authority. The Central Government has been taking initiative in the planning of flood management measures for the country and in expediting the implementation of important and critical flood management measures. In 1975, the Central Government also circulated a Model Flood Plain Zoning bill to all States for their consideration and adoption after suitably modifying as per local conditions. The Central Water Commission under Ministry of Water Resources operates and maintains a network of 157 flood forecasting stations on all important rivers of the country. Further, as a result of the flood management works taken up by the various State Governments, a total area of 14.37 m.ha. has been provided reasonable degree of protection as against 32 m.ha. of protectable area *in* the country. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government, at present, to suspend normal plan processes in flood prone areas.